

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 /075 W
-----017474 041538Z /56

R 031515Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4144

UNCLAS MOSCOW 16088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UR

SUBJECT: INAUGURATION OF TU-144 DOMESTIC PASSENGER SERVICE

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE INITIAL FLIGHT OF TU-144 IN DOMESTIC PASSENGER SERVICE (MOSCOW TO ALMA-ATA) ON NOVEMBER 1, NEWSPAPER COVERAGE MORNING NOVEMBER 2 BRINGS TO LIGHT ANSWERS TO SOME OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS SOVIET AIRCRAFT. AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED OCTOBER 31, 1977. CRUISE SPEED DURING THIS FLIGHT WAS 2300 KM/HR (1440 MI/HR) VS. NOMINAL CRUISE 2500 KM/HR (1560 M/HR). ON PREVIOUS NON-SERVICE FLIGHTS THE PLANE HAS VISITED KIEV, MURMANSK, TASHKENT, NOVOSIBIRSK, KHABAROVSK AND PRAGUE.

2. NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED THIS APPARENTLY NOW REGULAR FLIGHT AS NUMBER SU-499, WEEKLY SERVICE MOSCOW TO ALMA-ATA AND RETURN EACH TUESDAY. HOWEVER, LATEST PUBLISHED SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS SERVICING MOSCOW, VALID FROM OCTOBER 15, DOES NOT INCLUDE NO. 499.

3. FOR THE RECORD, SOME OF TU-144 VITAL STATISTICS, AS ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 2, ARE: LENGTH, OVER 60 METERS; WINGSPAN, 28 METERS; HEIGHT, ALMOST 13 METERS; WEIGHT, 180 MT; ALTITUDE OF INAUGURAL FLIGHT, 16,000 M (52,000 FT);
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SPEED OF INAUGURAL FLIGHT, 2300 KM/HR (1440 MI/HR);
SEATING CAPACITY, 140; RUNWAY REQUIREMENT, 10,000 FT.

4. ARTICLES DESCRIBE FLIGHT OF TU-144 AS FULLY AUTO-MATED, WITH PILOTS PRIMARILY CHECKING AND ASSURING PROPER FUNCTIONING OF AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT. SOME OF TRICKIER NEW SKILLS TO BE LEARNED BY CREWS WERE SAID TO BE IN-FLIGHT

EXTENSION AND RETRACTION OF MINI FRONT WINGS, OVERCOMING
OF SOUND BARRIER, AND NEW TECHNIQUES OF GAINING ALTITUDE.
NOISE LEVEL WAS DESCRIBED AS NOT EXCEEDING THAT OF NORMAL
SUB-SONIC JETS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, CIVIL AVIATION, PRESS COMMENTS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW16088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770407-0247
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711100/aaaadhvw.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 387911
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INAUGURATION OF TU-144 DOMESTIC PASSENGER SERVICE
TAGS: EAIR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f658ae0d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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